



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Pittsburgh District

In Reply Refer to
Notice No. below

US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. 200100132

Date: February 18, 2004

Notice No. 04-6

Closing Date: March 10, 2004

1. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
2. APPLICANT: Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
P. O. Box 67676
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7676
3. LOCATION: Little Raccoon Run, Robinson Run, Millers Run and Chartiers Creek in Robinson, McDonald, Mt. Pleasant and Cecil Townships in Washington County and North Fayette and South Fayette in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
4. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes place fill material into Waters of the U.S., which includes wetlands, as part of the construction of the Southern Beltway Transportation Project. The watershed area for the proposed project is part of the Ohio River drainage basin and includes the above listed watersheds. This project will connect with U.S. Route 22, approximately three miles east of the Imperial Interchange, and will extend approximately 13 miles to Interstate 79 to a point located between the Bridgeville and Southpointe interchanges, near the Allegheny and Washington County lines. The U.S. Route 22 to Interstate 79 Section of the Southern Beltway is one of three separate standing projects which are meant to provide transportation improvements to help reduce congestion, improve safety, support economic development, improve east-west mobility and regional circumferential movements in the corridor south and west of the City of Pittsburgh. This project is needed to overcome numerous inadequacies and safety concerns to the existing networks of narrow, rural roads, with limited site distances and vertical clearances. Three alternative routes have been studied within the project area. Among these are: Alternative B-1, which lies north of McDonald Borough; and Alternatives B-2 and B-3, which lie south of McDonald Borough. If the B-1 alternative is constructed, it would impact a total of 5.34 acres of wetland out of 60 wetlands within the project area. Streams impacted by B-1 include 38 perennial stream segments for a total of 13,073 linear feet (culvert and relocations) and 9

intermittent streams, totalling 4,920 feet. If the B-2 alternative is constructed, a total of 8.17 acres of impacts would occur to approximately 66 wetlands. Stream impacts include 37 crossings, which will impact (culvert and relocation) 12,498 feet of perennial and 3,070 feet of intermittent streams. The B-3 alternative would impact portions of approximately 63 wetlands for a total of 6.71 acres. The B-3 Alternative requires that approximately 34 streams would be crossed, affecting 12,305 feet of perennial and 2,830 feet of intermittent streams. Of the wetlands found within the potential impact areas for the three alternatives, the majority are between 0.01 and 0.09 acre in size. Less than 13% of wetlands in the project area are greater than 0.50 acre in size. Bridges, box culverts and pipe culverts would be used for stream crossings. Several stream relocations would also be required. Several wetlands, primarily those associated with watercourses, will be spanned by bridge structures and thus would not be filled. The B-2 alternative is considered to be the most consistent with municipal comprehensive plans and has received the most support from the surrounding communities. In the consideration of overall impacts, the B-2 has been identified as the Recommended Preferred Alternative. However, the identification of the Preferred Alternative will not be made until comments on the DEIS and testimony from the public hearing have been fully evaluated. Following final project design of the selected alternative, unavoidable stream and wetland impacts will be mitigated through habitat and water quality improvements and replacements. Attached to this notice is a map designating the locations of the proposed alternatives and two Summary Tables of Environmental Impacts from the Draft Environmental Impact Analysis/Section 404 Permit Application, Volume I. A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project is available for review in this office.

5. ENCROACHMENT PERMIT: The applicant is required to obtain an encroachment permit which includes State 401 Water Quality Certification from the:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Office
Soils and Waterways Section
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745

Telephone: 412-442-4000

6. IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to affect the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. This Public Notice serves as a request to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether

any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

7. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted, and it has been determined that there are no properties currently listed on the register which would be directly affected by the proposed work. If we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this notice, or by other means, of specific archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical sites or structures which might be affected by the proposed work, the District Engineer will immediately take the appropriate action necessary pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 - Public Law 89-665 as amended (including Public Law 96-515).

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in the paragraph below entitled "RESPONSES," that a public hearing be held to consider this application. The requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.


9. EVALUATION: Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposals must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine

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the overall public interest of the proposed activity. The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

10. RESPONSES: A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest. Written statements concerning the proposed activity should be received in this office on or before the closing date of this Public Notice in order to become a part of the record and to be considered in the final determination. Any objections which are received during this period may be forwarded to the applicant for possible resolution before the determination is made whether to issue or deny the requested DA Permit. All responses to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, attn Richard Sobol, at the above address, by telephoning (412) 395-7153, or by e-mail at richard.sobol@usace.army.mil Please refer to CELRP-OR-F 200100132 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:



Albert H. Rogalla
Chief, Regulatory Branch

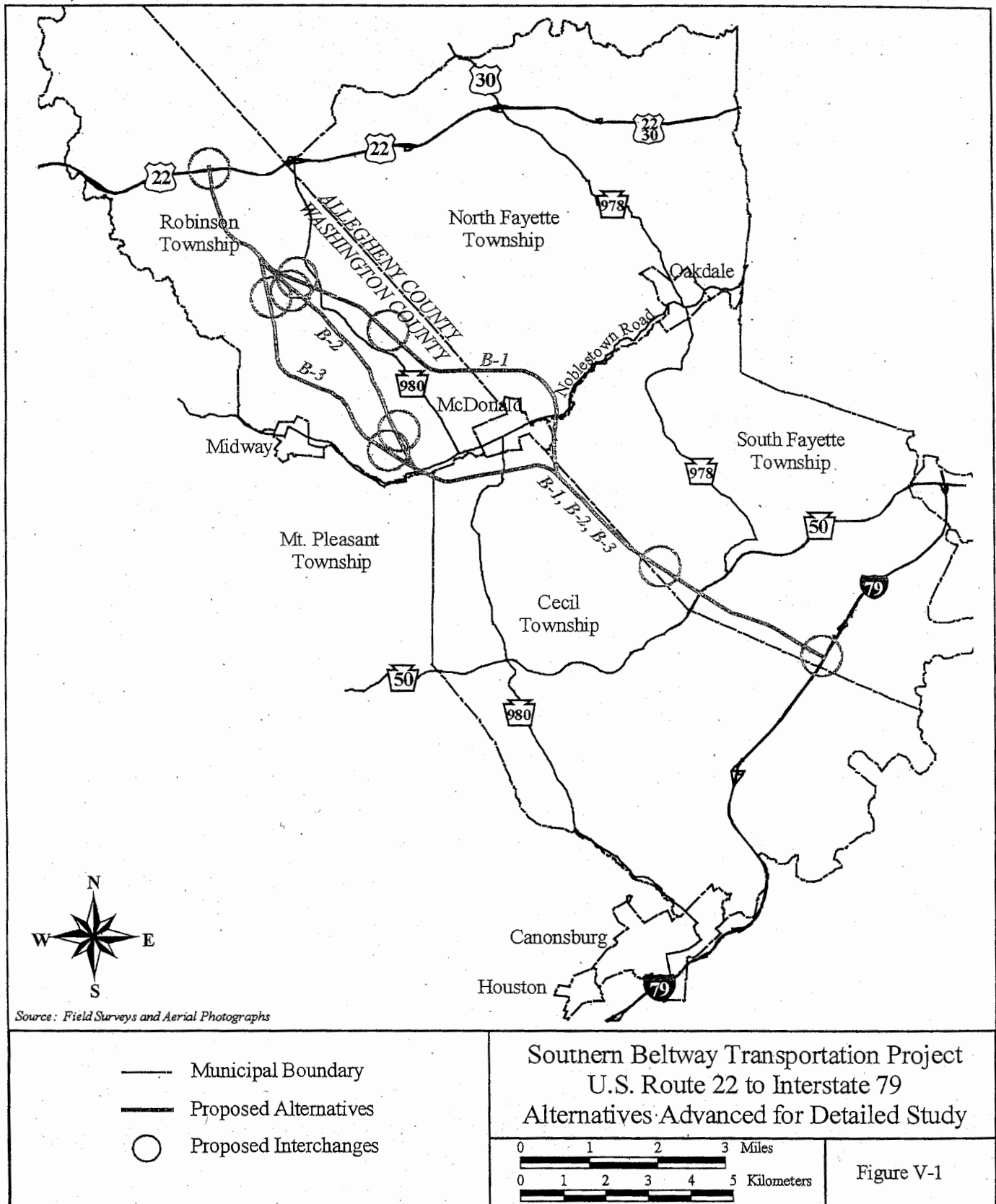


TABLE V-1

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
OF THE NEW TOLL ROAD ALTERNATIVES

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES	ALTERNATIVE		
	B-1	B-2	B-3
Publicly Owned Parks and Recreation Sites			
Montour Trail Crossing	1	2	2
Panhandle Trail Crossing	1	2	2
Cultural Resources			
National Register Eligible or Listed Structures or Sites	2	0	0
Prehistoric Archaeological High Probability Zones— hectares (acres)	12 (30)	9 (22)	6 (14)
Historic Archaeological Probability - (Significant Sites)	13 low 3 moderate 12 high	11 low 3 moderate 11 high	11 low 3 moderate 10 high
Section 4(f) Uses	2	0	0
Natural Resources *			
Number of Wetlands	60	66	63
Wetland Impacts— hectares (acres)	2.16 (5.34)	3.31 (8.17)	2.72 (6.71)
Length of Perennial Stream Loss or Culverted - watersheds > 40 hectares [100 acres]	1,231.4 m (4,040 ft)	1,407.6 m (4,618 ft)	1,885.2 m (6,185 ft)
Floodplains Impacts— hectares (acres)	2.7 (7)	2.1 (5)	2.1 (5)
Forest Land Impacts— hectares (acres)	285.3 (705)	280.0 (692)	265.0 (655)
Range Land Impacts— hectares (acres)	101.2 (250)	62.3 (154)	69.6 (172)
Grass Land Impacts— hectares (acres)	16.6 (41)	15.0 (37)	32.0 (79)
Coal Mining Impact Potential	Low	Low	Low
Farmlands			
Productive Agriculture Impacts **— No. of Operators/hectares(acres)	8 / 17.7 (44)	7 / 39.6 (98)	8 / 38.8 (96)
Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Impacts — hectares (acres)	9.0 (21)	9.0 (21)	9.0 (21)
Potentially Contaminated Areas	2	1	1
Displacements			
Residential	82	60	58
Business	7	8	9
Public Facilities	1	1	1
Total Length of Alternative — kilometers (miles)	20.84 (12.95)	20.73 (12.88)	21.18 (13.16)
Construction Cost Estimate (Millions) ***	\$ 216.7	\$ 224.9	\$ 234.7

* Continued coordination is occurring for the Federally Endangered Indiana Bat and Pennsylvania Endangered Short-eared Owl.

** Farmlands for the B-2 Alternative include 25 hectares (62 acres) of property which is temporary farmlands use according to the property owner

*** Includes project construction, utility relocation, and necessary interchange and adjacent roadway improvements (based on 2002 cost estimate).

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TABLE IV-21

SUMMARY OF WETLAND IMPACT IN HECTARES (ACRES)

	B-1 Alternative	B-2 Alternative	B-3 Alternative
Number of Impacted Wetlands	60	66	63
Direct Impacts			
PEM	1.822 (4.505)	2.659 (6.572)	2.284 (5.640)
PSS	0.259 (0.640)	0.499 (1.234)	0.406 (1.003)
PFO	0.078 (0.192)	0.148 (0.366)	0.0281(0.069)
Impacts by Watershed			
Little Raccoon Run	1.045 (2.584)	1.724 (4.264)	0.513 (1.267)
Robinson Run	0.196 (0.484)	0.649 (1.603)	1.290 (3.141)
Millers Run	0.215 (0.531)	0.229 (0.565)	0.229 (0.565)
Chartiers Creek	0.703 (1.740)	0.703 (1.740)	0.703 (1.740)
TOTAL	2.160 (5.339)	3.305 (8.172)	2.714 (6.713)

Wetland Finding

Wetland investigations conducted from Spring 1999 to Spring 2001 resulted in the identification of 310 palustrine wetlands. Several alternatives were evaluated for this project and are further described in Chapter III-Alternatives and Chapter V- Recommendations.

Following avoidance and impact minimization efforts, the remaining impacted area of wetlands will be mitigated through replacement according to wetland classification and functional value. Additionally, wetland replacement would be conducted with agency involvement and at a minimum ratio of 1:1.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, avoidance and minimization measures have been incorporated in the development process for each Alternative. There are no practicable alternatives that avoid wetland impacts. The final design would incorporate all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands.

Section 404(b)(1) Analysis

This section has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Construction of this project would require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) 404 permit and a PADEP Chapter 105 permit. In order to obtain these permits, the PADEP must issue the Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the project. A complete Section 404 Permit Application is included in Appendix B. During circulation of the Draft EIS, the PADEP Chapter 105 Permit Application Environmental Assessment Form would be prepared and included in the FEIS.